

Communion

If we think about what Communion is and what the bible asks us to do as we participate in communion, it is, to remember. Remember who? Jesus. Remember what? That he died for us. That's all cool, but we can quickly forget that what Jesus did was because of his love for us. Sounds simple enough doesn't it. We sing songs that use all sorts of adjectives regarding his love: amazing love, indescribable love, reckless love, boundless love...and so on...but to what end do we understand his love? Can we ever sufficiently understand his love?

We are not asked to understand his love or comprehend his love, but we are asked to accept that he loves, accept that he loves to the point of sending his son to die for our sin, *accept I don't get it*, but accept he did. God's love cannot be thought of or spoken about apart from Jesus' dying for our sin. God's love and Jesus dying for us are intrinsically connected.

I want to give you three simple "A" words this morning to help us remember what remembering around communion means:

Accepting that he loves us, Appreciating how he loves us and why he loves us, and also our love for and serving one Another. *All of these* are relative to our *remembering* him through communion and the passage that will help us with all 3 is **1 John 4:7-19**

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. **8** Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. **9** This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. **10** This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. **11** Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **12** No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. **13** This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. **14** And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. **15** If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. **16** And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. **17** This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. **18** There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. **19** We love because he first loved us.

Did you notice there are 23 references to love in this passage...makes it a big deal for John and for us!

We Accept that he loves us...

We Appreciate how he loves us and why he loves us...

Stott - "No-one who has been to the cross and seen God's immeasurable and unmerited love displayed there can go back to a life of selfishness"

We serve and love one Another...

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

It seems to be clear that Accepting that he loves us, Appreciating how he loves us and why he loves us, and our love for and serving one Another, are all relative to our remembering him through communion.

So there's a lot in this word, **remember**. Think of at least one reason for each of the three "A's" below, perhaps you could use these in your devotional time?

I accept God's love because...???

I appreciate God's love because...???

We must love another because...???

And so we **Remember**. Remember who? Jesus. Remember what? That he died for us.

Remember that: *God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* Rom. 5:5-8

We Remember: when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. Heb. 10:12-14

Remember it is: *because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.* Eph. 2:4-5

We Remember it is - *not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.* 1 John 4:10

Let's Remember what the Lord has done for us and give thanks!